AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.- 24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~234, whereby said $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ regulatory T cells are removed from the human peripheral blood.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~234, wherein said method further comprises utilizing immunoadsorption methods.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~234, wherein said method further comprises utilizing a stimulating agent or antigen presenting cells.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~234, further comprising a step of testing the $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells for a regulatory property of $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~2~~834, wherein said step of testing the $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells for a regulatory property of $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells comprises analyzing the $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells for a property selected from the group consisting of:

~~(a) constitutive expression of CTLA-4;~~

(~~b~~a) being non-proliferative following stimulation via the T cell receptor;

(e~~b~~) being in an anergic state;

(~~d~~c) being in an anergic state that is partially reversed by IL-15;

(ed) being in an anergic state that is partially reversed by IL-2 and IL-15;

(fe) releasing IL-10 following stimulation with allogeneic mature dendritic cells;

(gf) releasing IL-10 following stimulation with anti-CD28 antibodies and immobilized anti-CD3 antibodies;

(hg) suppressing the activation and proliferation of $CD4^+$ T cells in a coculture experiment;

(ih) suppressing the activation and proliferation of $CD8^+$ T cells in a coculture experiment; and

(ji) having a cytokine profile that differs from that of $CD4^+$ $CD25^-$ T cells.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said step of testing the $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells for a regulatory property of $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells comprises the step of analyzing the $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells for the property of suppressing the activation and proliferation of $CD4^+$ T cells in a coculture experiment, wherein said analyzing comprises determining whether said property of suppressing the activation and proliferation of $CD4^+$ T cells is contact-dependent.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said step of testing the $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells for a regulatory property of $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells comprises the step of analyzing the $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells for the property of suppressing the activation and proliferation

of $CD4^+$ T cells in a coculture experiment, wherein said analyzing comprises the use of $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells that have been activated and fixed.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said step of testing the $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells for a regulatory property of $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells comprises the step of analyzing the $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells for a cytokine profile of predominant secretion of IL-10 and only low levels of secretion of IL-2, IL-4, and IFN-γ.

33. (Currently Amended) A method to remove $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ regulatory T cells from human blood comprising the steps of:

(a) isolating $CD4^+$ T cells from the blood;

(b) isolating $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells from the $CD4^+$ T cells isolated in step (a); and

(c) testing the $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells isolated in step (b) for constitutive expression of CTLA-4, and confirming the presence in said $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells of $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ regulatory T cells constitutively expressing CTLA-4.

34. (New) A method to remove $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ regulatory T cells from human blood comprising the steps of:

(a) isolating $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells from the blood; and

(b) testing the $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells isolated in step (a) for constitutive expression of CTLA-4, and confirming the presence in said $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells of $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ regulatory T cells constitutively expressing CTLA-4.

35. (New) The method according to claim 33, which further comprises confirming the presence in said $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells of $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ regulatory T cells constitutively expressing CTLA-4 by contacting the $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells isolated in step (b) with anti-CTLA-4 antibodies and detecting specific binding of said $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ regulatory T cells constitutively expressing CTLA-4 to said antibodies.

36. (New) The method according to claim 34, which further comprises confirming the presence in said $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells of $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ regulatory T cells constitutively expressing CTLA-4 by contacting the $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ T cells isolated in step (b) with anti-CTLA-4 antibodies and detecting specific binding of said $CD4^+$ $CD25^+$ regulatory T cells constitutively expressing CTLA-4 to said antibodies.